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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,390	10/17/2003	Darren Saravis	70288.020800	1292

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HANH VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/688,390	Applicant(s) SARAVIS, DARREN	
	Examiner Hanh V. Tran	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5-10, 12-14, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5-10, 12-14, and 17-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/28/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 10, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10, the limitation on lines 2-3 of "said first panel and said second panel affixed to a corner cover at each of said two corners" is vague and indefinite for failing to clearly define how it is possible for the panels affixing to a corner cover at each of the two corners; "said first panel and said second panel affixed to a corner cover at each of said two corners" should be "a corner cover affixed to said first panel and said second panel at each of said two corners". Claims 17 and 18, "wherein in an assembled state, said catch snaps into engagement" should be "wherein in an assembled state, said catch is adapted to snap into engagement".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12-14, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 3,856,147 to Piretti in view of USP 3,288,301 to Kent et al, USP 4,253,268 to Mayr, and USP 5,466,057 to Blankenburg.

Piretti discloses a snap together connection system comprising all the elements recited in the above listed claims including, such as shown in Fig 4, a plurality of corner covers each having a latch with an enlarged head 6, an elongated catch with flexible slot walls 3 formed thereon, wherein the elongated catch and latch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other; through which the first corner cover and the second corner cover are connected together by snapping the elongated latch of either the first corner cover or the second corner cover into the elongated catch of the other cover corner, and a straight connector being defined as one of the panels; wherein the corner covers are made of a metallic material. The differences being that Piretti does not disclose the catch of the first corner cover is adapted to snap into engagement with the latch of the

Art Unit: 3637

second corner cover in the transverse direction of the elongated deformable slot walls of said catch, and at least one alignment stop at the end of a catch and latch to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

However, Kent et al teaches that it is well known in the art to make a connector from either a metallic or plastic material, and it is inherent that with the connector being made of plastic material, the catch walls would be easily deformable. Mayr further teaches that it is well known in the art to have a connector being made of a plastic material; wherein the connector comprises a latch and catch connection; wherein the catch of a first panel snaps into engagement with the latch of a second panel in the transverse direction of the deformable slot walls of said catch for the purpose of providing an easy engagement/disengagement between the catch of the first panel to the latch of the second panel. Blankenburg teaches the idea of providing a corner connector, such as shown in Fig 2, with at least one alignment stop 80 at the end of a catch to limit sliding movement of a connected member in order to prevent inadvertent disengagement of the corner connector and the connected member. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Piretti by having the corner cover being made of a plastic material such that the catch walls would be easily deformable, as taught by Kent et al, and since the corner cover being made of a plastic material, it would have been obvious that the catch of the first corner cover of Piretti, as modified, can snap into engagement with the latch of the second corner cover in the transverse direction of the deformable slot walls of the catch for the purpose of providing an easy engagement/disengagement between the latch and catch of the first corner cover and

Art Unit: 3637

the second corner cover, as taught by Mayr, and providing at least one alignment stop at the end of a catch and latch to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch in order to prevent inadvertent disengagement of the snapped together latch and catch, as taught by Blankenburg, since the references each teach alternate conventional panel connection structure, used for the same intended purpose of connecting one panel to another, thereby providing structure as claimed.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-6868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3637

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



HVT

March 19, 2007

Hanh V. Tran
Art Unit 3637